

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21, 23-41, 44 and 46-63 remain pending in the application.

Claims 22, 42, 43 and 45 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 23-28, 44, 48, 55 and 61 have been amended herein.

Claims 1, 44, 48, 55 and 61 are independent.

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 22-30 are allowable and that Claims 45, 46, 48, 50, 55, 56, 61 and 62 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 2, 7-12, 16-21, 31-39 and 43 were provisionally rejected under 35 USC 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 7-12, 6-21, 31-39 and 42 of copending Application No. 10/219,814. The claim amendments and cancellations presented herein are believed to render this provisional rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 44, 47 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 6,695,874 (Machold et al.); Claim 42 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,231,594 (Dae); Claims 13-15, 41, 52, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Machold; and Claims 6 and 40 were rejected as being unpatentable over Machold in view of Dae.

Each of the rejections is respectfully traversed. However, in order to place the application in condition for allowance, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of now canceled dependent Claim 22; independent Claim 44 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of now canceled dependent Claim 45; Claims 48, 55 and 61 have been rewritten in independent form; and dependent Claims 23-28 have been amended to depend from Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now clearly in condition for allowance and prompt review and issuance is accordingly requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application

at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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